



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

September 2022



SERVING THE PARISHES OF

ALL SAINTS'
Baschurch

HOLY TRINITY
Weston Lullingfields

ST MARY'S
Hordley

50p
Per issue

Editorial

Welcome to the September issue of Church Family News, which I hope you will enjoy reading and find useful for reference. Deborah, our associate minister, writes about September being a month for taking stock, and encourages us to include a spiritual stocktaking in this (page 4). She also reminds us of places in the world where religious persecution is a fact of daily life.

Besides our regular items and features, this month's magazine also includes an interesting article about inter-generational ministry (page 20). Our churches are one of the few places in our society where people of different generations still come together, and so present opportunities and challenges for building inter-generational communities. We also have a personal view from our local Shropshire County Councillor—a helpful insight into what it is like to serve in local government (page 23).

We are, hopefully, coming out of a very prolonged period of dry weather, during which the fire and rescue services across the country have been kept very busy with fires in the open. Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service—with mostly on-call fire fighters—have done an amazing job to contain and control potentially dangerous situations. Thank you to our on-call fire fighters, especially those stationed at Baschurch and Ellesmere.

The summer has been a busy time for the Bishops of the Anglican Communion worldwide. Some 700 bishops gathered in Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference which has met once every ten years or so since the first one in 1867. The conference, delayed due to the pandemic, took place from 26th July to 7th August. The bishops considered together weighty matters affecting the life of the Church and Christian mission in our unstable and fragile world. The news media inevitably focused on the issues which threaten to divide us, especially issues of human sexuality, but the spirit in which these subjects were approached was prayerful and conciliatory, summed up by challenging all of us to respect those with whom we disagree by recognizing the integrity of their position. To read more about the conference go to: <https://www.lambethconference.org/about>

I always found starting a new year at school bitter-sweet—as a child I loved the summer holidays and was sad when they came to an end, but at the same time, I enjoyed getting back into the swing of things again. It is still the same—September, the onset of autumn, we have to get down to business. There is so much to do and so many new challenges to face!

Roger Paul (Editor)

CONTENTS

CLERGY LETTER.....	4
CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED	6
CARING FOR GOD’S ACRE	7
BASCHURCH NEWS.....	8
BASCHURCH AND WESTON HARVEST LUNCH	10
WESTON LULLINGFIELD NEWS.....	11
HORDLEY NEWS.....	12
SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST	13
SAINT OF THE MONTH—ST WINEFRIDE.....	14
FROM THE REGISTERS.....	16
SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER.....	17
BIBLE READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER.....	18
PICTURE PARABLE—THE HIRED LABOURERS	19
THE GENERATION GAME—INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRY	20
BEATING THE BOUNDS—PARISH MAP	21
ST JAMES THE LEAST OF ALL	22
A PERSONAL VIEW—FROM A SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR.....	23
CROSSWORD.....	25
INDEX OF ADVERTISERS.....	33
WHO’S WHO	34

Front cover photograph—the altar display at the Weston Lullingfields Flower Festival. Photograph by John Darling.

SUBMISSIONS FOR MAGAZINE

Please send your stories, pictures or notices for the next issue by

15th September 2022

to: **churchfamilynews@gmail.com**

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CLERGY LETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope that the beginning of this new month sees us all refreshed, re-energized and ready to go! 'Go where?' you may ask. All of us are on a journey, a spiritual journey. Some of us are right at the beginning of our journey with Jesus, some of us may not have started yet - we are still looking at the map, debating whether we want to go on this journey or not. Many of us have been following the same map for years, occasionally making detours, taking wrong paths and ending up lost! Some of us have come to the end of our map and we wonder, 'where next?'

September is a good month to take stock on where we are and where we want to be. Situations change. Children starting school, maybe for the first time, teenagers moving to colleges and universities, leaving home. Maybe it's a time when we may consider taking up a new hobby, or become members of this society or that. Many new opportunities to do something different open up in September. Being active and taking up new challenges have great health benefits, both physical and mental.

As we consider the above, may I encourage us all to challenge ourselves spiritually. If you are still deciding whether to start on your spiritual journey, why not take that first step on your map. Join us in one of the three churches and find out who Jesus really is. If you are already on the road, expand your knowledge and experience of Jesus, by joining in with 'Christianity Explored', (further details in this magazine on page 6) – all are welcome – for those exploring faith, new in their faith and those who are mature in their faith. We will be having a confirmation service in November. Anyone who feels ready to take this next step in their journey of faith, ask one of the clergy team. All other activities within the church are open and everyone is welcome: again, information for all these activities you will find here in the magazine.

Following Jesus isn't always easy, he never said that it would be. However, in the west, we are relatively free and safe to worship together- this is not so for millions of Christians across the world. As a benefice we pray and support Open Doors, an international organiza-

tion which support our Christian brothers and sisters in countries where it is dangerous to be Christian. Here are some examples of Christian persecution:

Myanmar

Three Christians were recently killed in an attack on four homes in the village of Janglenphai in Sagaing Division. In the same region, a church used as a refugee camp was raided by military forces, while another was bombed and money taken from mission boxes, offerings and tithes.

“When will this war end?” asks Tun Tun, an Open Doors local partner. “We live as refugees in a foreign land, resources are scarce and we never wanted to move, but for our safety and for our family, we must run.

“Please pray for the safety of the believers in Sagaing Division and Chin State,” Tun Tun continues. “There are many pagodas and shrines but not a single bullet hit those Buddhist buildings and structures in our areas, whereas the Christian’s buildings and churches were destroyed. “They ravage the Kuki Chin Christian villages, and they kill us like animals.”

Central Asia

Please pray for Alya, 19 years old, from Central Asia. When she became a believer she kept her new faith in Jesus, as a secret for her Muslim parents. But her mother found her Bible and from that moment on, it was conflict and tension in the house. They started to demand that she would renounce her faith, saying that she’s now a disgrace to the family. They have now threatened her to kick her out of the house, if she doesn’t renounce her faith in Jesus.

As we enjoy our freedom to worship, freedom to attend groups which enable us to mature in our faith, please remember all those who are denied even the basics of human rights because they follow Jesus.

Deborah Coatsworth

Associate Minister

CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?



A Six Week course exploring **Who is Jesus Christ?**
through the book of **Mark**.

What do Christians mean and understand by 'Good News', 'Sin', 'the Cross', and 'the Resurrection'?
Maybe you want to know about evil and suffering in the world and why a God of love could allow it.

Christianity Explored is an opportunity to ask and discuss those questions you never dared to ask. No question is silly; if you're thinking of it, someone else will be too.

This is an informal course that provides a space for anyone to explore what Jesus says about life's big questions in a relaxed and friendly setting. All are welcome from those who have a faith, those with none to those who aren't sure what they believe.

You can attend either online via Zoom or in church.

Please let us know if you wish to attend.

**Course begins: Monday 12th September
at 2pm (in All Saints Baschurch) or 7.30pm (Zoom).**

Revd. Linda Cox 01939 260305 or linda@allsaintsbaschurch.com



Tu-wit-tu-woo!

The Tawny Owl is probably our most familiar owl; children grow up learning that tawny owls say 'tu-wit-tu-woo' although this is not the call of one bird. The familiar call is a duet between the female who starts with the harsh 'kee-vik' which is then followed by the male with the deeper 'woo-hoooo'. At

this time of year you may hear a lot of owl calls as the young are noisily driven from their natal territory by their parents. Each existing territory they pass through will elicit much calling, shrieking and hooting. This is a dangerous time for the young owls and many will die, driven from hunting grounds by resident birds before they reach their first year. Once they do find a suitable territory, which is likely to be only a few kilometres from their place of birth, they may remain in it all year round for the rest of their lives, making them one of our most sedentary birds.

Tawny owls are a bird of woodland, choosing to nest within chimney-like holes within large trees. As with many woodland species, churchyards can be good places for them, containing a range of habitats full of food as well as trees for nesting. We think of tawny owls as eating mice and voles but they have quite a varied diet, depending on what is available. They may eat small birds, rabbits, beetles, frogs and worms too.

Tawny owls do well in owl nest boxes and churchyards can be good places for these. If putting one up, keep well away from paths as owls can attack people walking too near their nests. The best place for one is within a tree with ivy or lots of branches as when the young are preparing to leave the nest they start 'branching' – climbing up and down the trunk using ivy and branches as footholds, sitting in neighbouring trees and generally starting to explore. During this time the parent birds are still feeding them, and a young owl found on the ground is probably not in trouble and shouldn't be picked up in case a nearby parent attacks.

So, listen out for the tawny owls and think of the two birds duetting each other. Please let us know if you have owls within your churchyard and if not, how about putting up a nest box in a large tree?

All the best, Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor



NEWS FROM ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH

RIDE AND STRIDE

SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022

It's that time again! An opportunity to visit those local churches you have always meant to see and never got around to going to, at the same time raising money for All Saints' Baschurch and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (who have given us generous grants in the past). For further information about the work of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, see page 13.

Churches can be visited by car, bicycle, on horseback or on foot. Just ask your friends to sponsor you and raise money for us while having a lovely day out.

Sponsor forms available from **Angela Mayes** at church or on 01939 261047.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

The Children's Society Home Box Collection has this year raised £1,021.88. Thank you to all those who have contributed. The funds raised are much appreciated by The Children's Society and will support the ongoing delivery of their charitable activities.

For more information about the work of The Children's Society see their website: <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk>

Pauline Nelson

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

A Six Week course exploring **Who is Jesus Christ?** through the Gospel of **St Mark**. There are six meetings on Mondays either face to face in All Saints Church at 2pm or on Zoom at 7.30pm.

The dates for the meetings will be as follows:

Mondays 12th, 19th and 26th September, and Mondays 3rd, 10th and 17th October. For more information see the poster on page 6.

Contact Linda Cox if you are interested.



LITTLE STARS

A group for pre-school children, toddlers and babies and their parents and carers. Come and play, sing and make things on Wednesday morning 9am to 11am.

LIGHTHOUSE

Lighthouse is held in All Saints' for school years 6 to 9. Fun, games, music and a bit of thought.

Every Thursday night 6.30 till 8pm during term time.

Contact Martyn Lake on 01939 290777 or Rev Linda Cox by email.

COMMUNITY LUNCH

Come and enjoy a simple lunch (for a small donation of less than £3) and meet friends and neighbours, every Thursday from 12 noon to 1.30pm.

ALL SAINTS BASCHURCH " 100 CLUB" WINNERS

June 2022	No 39	Richard Hunt
	No 47	Len Gough
July 2022	No 110	Sophie Gasser
	No 115	Vince Cluderay
August 2022	No 54	Hazel Timmis

Pat Davies

HARVEST FESTIVAL AND HARVEST LUNCH

The Harvest Festival Service will be held on Sunday 25th September at 11am in All Saints Church.

The Harvest Lunch will also be on Sunday 25th September in Weston Lullingfields Village Hall at 1pm. See the poster on the next page for further details.



HARVEST LUNCH

**ALL SAINTS' BASCHURCH AND HOLY TRINITY
WESTON LULLINGFIELDS**

**ON SUNDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER AT 1PM
AT WESTON VILLAGE HALL**

**HOT LUNCH AND DESSERT
(BRING YOUR OWN DRINK)**

**£12 PER PERSON
(FAMILY TICKET £20 TO INCLUDE 2 CHILDREN UNDER 12)**

DONATIONS OF DESSERTS WELCOME

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM DAWN LAKE AND ANNE
ROBERTS PLUS ALL SAINTS' SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

TICKETS BY TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER PLEASE

NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY WESTON LULLINGFIELDS

Jubilee Flower Festival Revisited



John Darling has provided some more lovely photographs of the flower festival held in Holy Trinity Church for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. So we can see them in full colour, one of the photographs—of the beautiful flower arrangement on the altar of the church—is featured on the front cover for this month's Church Family News. And two others adorn the back cover. Thank you, John, for sharing these with us, and congratulations to all the flower arrangers for creating such amazing arrangements.

Harvest Festival and Harvest Lunch

The Harvest Lunch will be held on Sunday 25th September in Weston Lullingfields Village Hall at 1pm. Tickets are £12 per person, or £20 for a family ticket (which includes up to two children) and are available from Anne Roberts. See the poster on the previous page for further details. Details of the Harvest Festival Service to follow.

Churchyard Working Parties

September and October are arguably two of the most important months for gardening. The same can be said for the upkeep of our churchyards. Volunteers are always welcome to join the monthly churchyard working parties at Weston Lullingfields. The dates for the next two months are as follows:

Saturday 10th September at 10am

Saturday 8th October at 10am.

HORDLEY NEWS



There was consternation at St Mary's in early July when the Beef Baps and Puddings Party was put in jeopardy by the unfortunate occurrence of Mr Edward Jones, churchwarden, falling off his bike and fracturing his femur in the process. A new hip was quickly installed and he has made a very good recovery so far. Not all was lost as far as the party was concerned, however, when the other churchwarden, Mr John Willis, stepped into the breach by offering to host the party at

Broome Farm instead of at Sycamore House.

We were blessed with a beautiful balmy evening, friends new and old came to enjoy the event. Beef baps were consumed in large numbers and the array of puddings had to be seen to be believed! ABP kindly donated the beef for the event and over £1,000 was raised for church funds. We understand that the party didn't finally break up until the early hours.

A second excitement at St Mary's occurred on 24th July when David Hardham, the Ride and Stride organizer for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT), attended our service. He presented us with a certificate for raising the fourth largest amount in the whole of Shropshire last year. This was in spite of being one of the smallest parishes in the county.

As readers will know, St Mary's takes part in the Ride and Stride every year, raising funds for SHCT and our own church. The money from the Trust is used to supply grants to churches and chapels in Shropshire for repairs and some



improvements to enable our places of worship to be kept in good order. This year the date is Saturday 10th September and already ten people have volunteered to take part and taken sponsorship forms. Once again a hot supper at 8 Magnolia Drive, Ellesmere is being offered to all those taking part, provided they obtain some sponsorship! For further information and sponsorship forms please contact Mary Thomson on 01691 622198.

The next PCC meeting will take place on Wednesday 7th September at 7.30 pm.

The winner of the lottery draw in July was Liz Kennerley with number 1 and in August it was Jan and Meirion with number 20.

SHROPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

Shropshire is richly endowed with historic churches with over 350 Anglican churches and many churches and chapels of other denominations in regular use . Most of these are over 700 years old. Many of our churches are Listed Buildings, which signifies that they are of outstanding architectural and historic interest.

Responsibility for their maintenance and repair falls upon the individual parishes; they are not maintained or financed by the Church Commissioners, Diocese or State. In Shropshire most churches are in rural areas where the congregations are often small and need help to cope with repairs, which are often urgent and expensive. This is where the Trust may be able to help.

The Trust, now in its 30th year, has up to October 2020, awarded around 346 grants worth over £1,100,000 to over 200 churches and chapels. The grants made over the last 3 years have averaged £5,000. This compares with the average, since its foundation, which now stands at £2,900.

Rarely is the SHCT the only grant provider, churches having to search diligently for other sources to raise substantial sums, with the hope that the Heritage Lottery Fund will come to their rescue.

The work that our churches most often need is repair to the fabric: stone, brick, slate and wood. With our unforgiving wet climate, leaking roofs, defective gutters, down-pipes and drains feature more than anything. Our advice is to seek help early from the Trust to prevent small problems becoming big ones.

The Trust has two annual events which are its main fundraising activities—the **Open Gardens Scheme** and **Ride+Stride** - which this year takes place on Saturday 10th September. For details about Ride+Stride in our parishes see local parish news pages.



Saint of the Month—St Winefride

Readers of the series of books by Ellis Peters (aka Edith Pargeter) about Brother Cadfael, the Benedictine sleuth of Shrewsbury Abbey, will be familiar with St Winefride, the Welsh saint, whose remains were brought to Shrewsbury Abbey in the 12th Century from the remote Welsh village of Gwytherin. The Cadfael story '*A morbid taste for bones*' is woven around this episode, but the legend of Winefride goes back to the 7th century.

She was the daughter of Welsh nobleman Tyfid ap Eiludd, of modern day Flintshire, in the settlement now known as Holywell. Her mother Wenlo, was sister to Saint Beuno. She was a devout young woman, more interested in the religious life and learning than the more conventional life of marriage. A young nobleman, Caradog, was pressing her to marry him. One day he arrived at her parents' house when she was alone, and insisted that she consent to the marriage and go with him immediately. She refused him. Enraged, he threatened to rape her if she did not agree. She managed to escape and tried to flee to her uncle's church for sanctuary. Caradog overtook her, and murdered her outside the church, decapitating her with his sword.

When Beuno came out of the church he saw Winefride had been brutally murdered. Where her head had fallen a spring had begun to flow. Beuno took her head and joined it to her body, urging the congregation to pray

with him for Winefride's restoration back to life. Caradog looked on in an 'arrogant and insolent manner', as the medieval account expresses it. According to the legend, Beuno called down a curse upon Caradog, who melted away into the earth and was seen no more, while Winefride was restored to life.

Subsequently, Winefride devoted her life to prayer and learning, with her uncle as her first tutor. It seems she had already decided to enter the religious life, and after some years became a nun and then Abbess of a convent in Gwytherin.

The spring which began to flow where Winefride's head had fallen, became associated with healing powers and a place of pilgrimage. An elaborate shrine was built over the well in the medieval period, and has since been visited by pilgrims in an unbroken tradition. It is well worth a visit—it is in the care of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wrexham, but people of all denominations and none are welcome.

There is a contemporary feel to Winefrede's story. In her own reflections on the story of Winefrede, Bishop Sarah, the Bishop of Shrewsbury, has written:

In recent times, many people and 'women in particular have registered publicly the way they have suffered unwanted advances, or have been sexually harassed by others. This current debate shows that St Winefride's own story is entirely relevant and contemporary. As a woman harassed, overpowered and killed by someone who thought he could just force her to do what he wanted, her death shows that this kind of behaviour has affected all kinds of people down the ages. But St Winefride's story shows us more than just a story of lust and deadly violence; it is also a story of recovery, determination and flourishing, - with God's help'.

Perhaps Winefride is indeed a saint for our times.

Roger Paul

From the Registers

Weddings:

Saturday 30th July - Liam Malpas to Christina Easter at Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfield

Saturday 6th August – Christopher Fry to Sarah Jones at All Saints' Church, Baschurch

Funerals:

24th June - Susan (Sue) Sides aged 66 years at All Saints' Church. Baschurch

28th June – Barbara Lewis aged 79 years at All Saints' Church, Baschurch

11th July – Brian Mansfield aged 64 years at Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfield

25th July - Callum Williams aged 18 years at All Saints' Church, Baschurch

2nd August – Gordon Woods aged 66 years at All Saints' Church, Baschurch

4th August – Elsie Sinker aged 100 years at Emstrey Crematorium

5th August – Andrew (Andy) Goss aged 77 years at All Saints' Church, Baschurch

18th August – Brenda Morris aged 87 years at Holy Trinity Church, Weston Lullingfields

Burial of Ashes:

7th July – Margaret Burton at All Saints' Church, Baschurch

SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Sunday 4th September

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am Worship for All – Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
6.30pm Contemporary Worship – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

Philemon: 1-21 & Luke 14:25-33

Sunday 11th September

9.15am Worship for All – St Mary's Hordley
11am CW Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

1 Timothy 1:12-17 & Luke 15:1-10

Sunday 18th September

8am BCP Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
9.30am CW Holy Communion – Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields
11am Worship for All – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

1 Timothy 2:1-7 & Luke 16:1-13

Sunday 25th September

9.15am CW Holy Communion – St Mary's Hordley
11am Harvest Festival with Holy Communion – All Saints' Baschurch
4pm Forest Church – All Saints' Baschurch

Readings:

1 Timothy 6:6-19 & Luke 16:19-end
Harvest Readings will be different

**NEW TESTAMENT DAILY PRAYER READINGS FOR
MORNING PRAYER IN SEPTEMBER**

DATE	READING	DATE	READING
1	Acts 7:44-53	16	Acts 12:18-end
2	Acts 7:54-8:3	17	Acts 13:1-12
3	Acts 8:4-25	18	Revelation 14:1-5
4	Revelation 8:1-5	19	Acts 13:13-43
5	Acts 8:26-end	20	Acts 13:44-14:7
6	Acts 9:1-19a	21	Acts 14:8-end
7	Acts 9:19b-31	22	Acts 15:1-21
8	Acts 9:32-end	23	Acts 15:22-35
9	Acts 10:1-16	24	Acts 15:36-16:5
10	Acts 10:17-33	25	Luke 11:37-end
11	Revelation 12:1-12	26	Acts 16:6-24
12	Acts 10:34-end	27	Acts 16:25-end
13	Acts 11:1-18	28	Acts 17:1-15
14	Acts 11:19-end	29	Acts 17:16-end
15	Acts 12:1-17	30	Acts 18:1-21

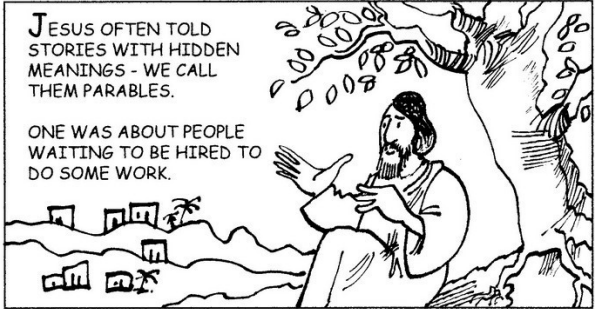
Picture Parable

The Hired Workers



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS - WE CALL THEM PARABLES.

ONE WAS ABOUT PEOPLE WAITING TO BE HIRED TO DO SOME WORK.



A HOUSEHOLDER HIRED A GROUP OF WORKERS FROM THE MARKET PLACE, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING. HE AGREED UPON A FAIR WAGE.



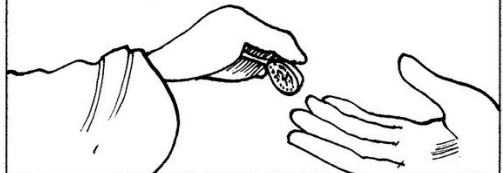
A BIT LATER ON THE HOUSEHOLDER RETURNED TO THE MARKET PLACE AND HIRED SOME MORE WORKERS.



HE RETURNED SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DAY, EACH TIME HIRING MORE WORKERS. HE EVEN HIRED SOME PEOPLE JUST AS THE SUN WAS SETTING!



WHEN THE DAY WAS OVER THE HOUSEHOLDER BEGAN TO PAY THE WORKERS, STARTING WITH THOSE WHO HAD ONLY JUST ARRIVED. HE PAID EVERYONE THE SAME.

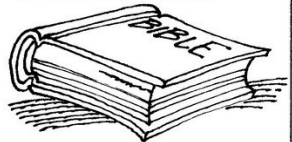


THIS UPSET THOSE WHO HAD WORKED ALL DAY. THEY THOUGHT THEY SHOULD GET MORE.



BUT THEY WERE BEING PAID WHAT THEY HAD AGREED AT THE START OF THE DAY.

JESUS CONCLUDED "SO THOSE WHO ARE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THOSE WHO ARE FIRST WILL BE LAST" - IT'S A HARD PARABLE!



see Matthew 20:1-16

THE GENERATION GAME

Churches are one of the few places in our society these days where all ages and generations come together. Being church is a way of life - not just being together on a Sunday morning. It needs to intentionally include all ages, to enable everyone to learn, worship, contribute and grow in relationship with Jesus together as a church family.

Trying to become an intergenerational community of faith has its challenges. We can become busy in our own learning and activities, often age groups can become segregated and how often are we open to learn something about faith from someone younger than us? Age brings wisdom, but we mustn't ignore younger leaders as St Paul emphasised in writing to Timothy.

Intergenerational approaches are modelled in much of the biblical narrative. Throughout the Old Testament there were occasions when all of God's people came together to pray, celebrate, worship, hear scripture and story, but there is also importance on the everyday living of faith (e.g. Deuteronomy 6:6–9). Jesus repeatedly challenged those who underestimated children, and in the Epistles, Paul repeatedly refers to the newly formed Church as 'the body of Christ' where every part needs every other part. This is no less important today.

Every church, parish and community are different so there will be no one way of creating opportunities for generations together. However, there are things we can all do to engage with those of other generations.

Building relationships is so important, a simple smile or welcome, chatting to others about what is happening in their life, or even sharing your faith story. When was the last time you shared your faith journey with another member of the congregation or someone in a different generation? Often, we are really pleased to see children's and youth work taking place in church but may not feel it is our calling. However, there is crucial role we can all play, building relationships and sharing faith stories with younger generations can be so powerful for a child or young person to hear.

Laura Edwards

Lichfield Diocese's Evangelism Enabler

For an informal chat about developing intergenerational ministry in your church please get in touch with Laura Edwards

laura.edwards@lichfield.anglican.org

Beating the Bounds—Outline Parish Map

Holy Trinity Weston Lullingfields with St Mary Hordley Parish Boundary



Yeaton Environmental Agency River Perry monitoring station—on 16 Aug water level was 0.1m (below normal range)

All Saints Baschurch Parish Boundary

St James the Least of All
The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

On how to save electricity in church

Your church certainly seems to have taken to the idea of green electricity with a vengeance. To have covered the whole of your roof with solar panels was a brave move, and it makes quite a sight – especially when the sun catches them, dazzling motorists on the by-pass and causing multiple pile-ups. I pity the local pigeons, who try to land on it and then do a gentle glissade into the gutters.

I know there have been objections to your proposal to erect a wind turbine in your car park – although no one could claim that it spoils the aesthetic appearance of your church. Nothing, my dear Darren, could do that.

May I humbly offer you some further suggestions for reducing your electricity consumption. If you cut your sermons by half, then everyone could go home 20 minutes earlier. Similarly, if you only sang each chorus once instead of your customary 17 times, that should cut your service times in half. And why have lighting so good that everyone can see everyone else? That is the last thing our own congregation ever want to do.

I raised the issue at our last church council meeting, but having only recently gone on to electricity, there seemed little enthusiasm for yet more change. Major Hastings still fondly remembers our old acetylene plant in the churchyard, destroyed during one Mattins when the verger was unaware of the gas leak and lit up a cigarette. We still occasionally find pieces of his cassock when mowing the grass.

Mr Prentice, with a slightly malicious gleam, suggested building a treadmill, to be worked by the Young Farmers – which would also keep them out of the pub while Evensong was taking place. I couldn't help feeling that our Ladies Group would have far more determina-



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

tion to keep the thing rotating – probably providing enough energy to light the entire County. I was tempted to suggest we invite the vicar from our adjoining parish, St Agatha's, to preach every Sunday, as that would fill our church with more than enough hot air.

I finally stopped all further discussion on the subject when a solar panel consultant arrived at the Rectory and began his sales pitch with the phrase: "I've come to convert you".

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

A PERSONAL VIEW

In the following article, Nick Bardsley offers a personal view of his work as Shropshire Councillor for Ruyton and Baschurch.

I have been interested and involved with Local Government for much of my working life. For just over thirty years I was a full time Local Government Officer, finally retiring as Chief Executive of Montgomeryshire District Council in 1996 when Local Government in Wales was reorganized and I had the opportunity to embark on a new career.

I was however still interested in Local Government. I have always believed that criticizing from the touch line wasn't for me and that if you think something needs to be done you should "be on the pitch" taking part! So, I stood for election (several times but always unsuccessfully!) for Powys County Council before moving to Shropshire in 2007. I was finally elected as county councillor for Ruyton and Baschurch in 2013. I was very lucky to win - and appreciated, as I still do,

what a privilege it is to be a Shropshire Councillor.

Throughout my time as a Shropshire Councillor I have been closely involved with Children's Services and with Education in Shropshire. I believe strongly that our Shropshire children deserve the best education we can provide - and that the less fortunate children who became "looked after" by the Council deserve no less care, love and attention than we give to our own children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces If something would not be good enough for these, it isn't good enough for Shropshire's children "in care"!

A great deal of my time is taken up with helping people with problems in my "patch" and working closely with the three Parish Council's - Ruyton XI Towns, Baschurch and Hordley. I fear that many people simply don't realize how much hard work, careful thought - and hours in meetings are typically devoted by unpaid Parish Councillors. Many have years of experience in their working life plus a detailed knowledge of their Parish without which local government could not operate effectively. Many of course also serve on School Governing Bodies, again without any remuneration .

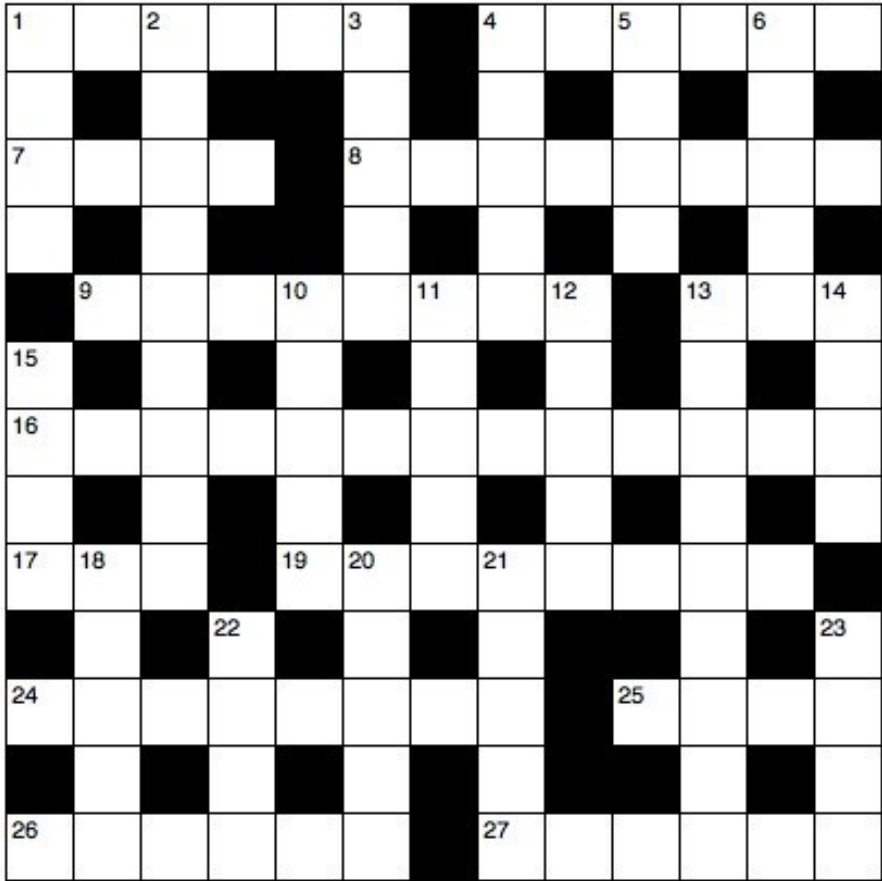
I believe too that our rural communities need our churches. Many of our primary schools are Church of England Schools and our Parish Churches in this Benefice and in Ruyton XI Towns are and should be at the heart of community life. I have been an active participant in Church life for many years.

It is easy to point the finger or criticize - but we are blessed in each of our parishes with good Christian people, trying their best, often failing (of course) but succeeding too in following Christ's teaching.

It's a privilege to be part of our Church Family here in Shropshire - so thank you to so many people , our clergy of course but also the many ordinary lay churchgoers. You have made me welcome. Your example is always before me. I hope I continue to learn from it!

Nick Bardsley

Crossword



Clues Across

- 1 'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders — in vain' (Psalm 127:1) (6)
- 4 Season of the year (Psalm 84:6) (6)
- 7 'My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. — here and keep watch with me' (Matthew 26:38) (4)
- 8 It came over the whole land from the sixth to the ninth hour on the first Good Friday (Luke 23:44) (8)

- 9 Paul invariably did this in the synagogues he visited on his missionary journeys (Acts 17:2) (8)
 13 'It is God who works in you to will and to — according to his good purpose' (Philippians 2:13) (3)
 16 Members of the Church of Scotland (13)
 17 'Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountain side and — down' (Matthew 5:1) (3)
 19 Mock(Luke14:29)(8)
 24 Disgrace(Psalm44:13)(8)
 25 First month of the Hebrew calendar (Exodus13:4)(4)
 26 Christianity of the Britons before Augustine arrived from Rome(6)
 27 Mean (Numbers 35:23)(6)

Clues Down

- 1 'Whoever finds his life will — it' (Matthew 10:39) (4)
 2 'My lord the king, let the — — on me and on my father's family, and let the king and his throne be without guilt' (2 Samuel 14:9) (5,4)
 3 O raid (anag.) (5)
 4 'If two of you on earth — about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven' (Matthew 18:19) (5)
 5 Take care of (1 Samuel 17:15) (4)
 6 What the older son heard as he came near the house the day his prodigal brother came home (Luke 15:25) (5)
 10 'Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with — judgment' (Romans 12:3) (5)
 11 Do ten(anag.)(5)
 12 Architectural style first used in Greek temples in the sixth century BC (5)
 13 Capable of being used(1Kings7:36)(9)
 14 'Each one should — his own actions'(Galatians6:4)(4)
 15 Among the items imported by Solomon's fleet of trading ships (1 Kings 10:22) (4)
 18 'But I am afraid that just — — was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray' (2 Corinthians 11:3) (2,3)
 20 Outstanding 18th-century hymn writer, — Watts(5)
 21 One of the four sons of Asher(Genesis46:17)(5)
 22 Be distressed(Proverbs24:19)(4)
 23 He was the father of Gaal, who threatened rebellion against Abimelech (Judges 9:28) (4)

Solution on page 33

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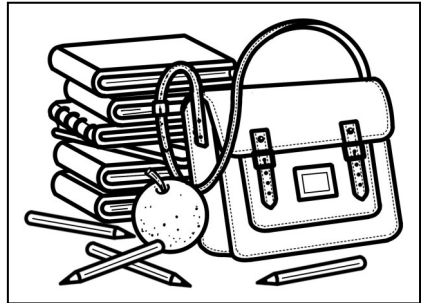
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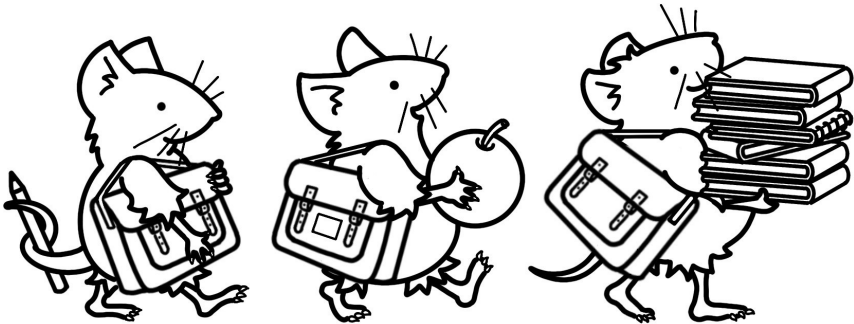
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Crossword Solution

ACROSS: 1, Labour. 4, Autumn. 7, Stay. 8, Darkness. 9, Reasoned. 13, Act. 16, Presbyterians. 17, Sat. 19, Ridicule. 24, Reproach. 25, Abib. 26, Celtic. 27, Intend.

DOWN: 1, Lose. 2, Blamerest. 3, Radio. 4, Agree. 5, Tend. 6, Music. 10, Sober. 11, Noted. 12, Doric. 13, Available. 14, Test. 15, Apes. 18, As Eve. 20, Isaac. 21, Ishvi. 22, Fret. 23, Ebed.

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